



News about your community.

# Karin Uhlich

Council Member—Ward 3

A Note from Karin

SPRING/SUMMER EDITION—2011

Dear Tucsonans,

A prosperous future for Tucson depends on sound resource management. In our work to balance the City budget we have included long range planning. We know we must rebuild our reserves and insure that the cost of services we provide does not outpace the taxes/fees that we as community members are willing and able to pay.

Our management of water through oversight of Tucson Water requires the same approach-immediate efficiencies and sound management with an eye toward long time security. I want to be sure you are aware of our concerted effort and progress on water security in recent years. First, I strongly recommend that you take the time to read the summary of the Tucson/Pima Water/Wastewater Study and Action Plans (see <a href="https://www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com/">www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com/</a>). Adopted with overwhelming support from the Tucson Mayor and City Council as well as the Pima County Board of Supervisors, we now have a set of specific values, goals and priorities that will shape water stewardship for decades to come in our region. I was very proud to work with my colleagues at the Board of Supervisor, Richard Elias and Sharon Bronson several years ago to kick start this study. Since its completion, a few of our first concrete actions through Tucson Water have been:

- · Adoption of a Water Service Area with restrictions for extending service beyond the defined boundaries of that map.
- · Adoption of intergovernmental agreements to enable future allocations of effluent for environmental/riparian restoration projects and developments.
- · Adoption of intergovernmental agreements for leveraging existing water infrastructure to the benefit of Tucson Water ratepayers as well as our partner water providers across the region.

Sound water management has implications for the utility's budget and for our implementation of smart growth principles moving forward. Already, our community's outstanding work of conservation has lowered demand for water per household. The Water Service Area map also defines the parameters any further growth of Tucson Water infrastructure and delivery. We have moved from a demand-driven lens to a water security lens, through which growth can be placed along existing service lines (more urban infill) and in concert with other key infrastructure (e.g. transit services). We can also draw Colorado River water into our system beyond current annual demand and store it to guard against future shortages.

These dual advances of aggressive conservation and sound planning factor into proposed water rates will be discussed in the coming months. If you are a Tucson Water customer we need especially to hear from you. It is clear that better water stewardship (including conservation and water draw-downs/storage) comes at some cost. I want to know from you whether moving from water service toward water security is worth it to you.



Connect the facts: Plastic bags create blight through highly visible moving litter, and can harm terrestrial and marine wildlife. Plastic bags are collected at many grocery stores, but cannot be recycled at the curbside. Visit the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle Directory for ways to help divert plastic bags from the landfill. Better yet, invest in several reusable, durable cloth bags, and eliminate this source of waste altogether!

## Tucson Clean & Beautiful: Your Connection to Everyday Hands-On Community and Environmental Improvement Efforts!

By: B.J. Cordova, Director of Programs—Tucson Clean & Beautiful

Tucson Clean & Beautiful is a non-profit organization with a purpose to preserve and improve our environment, conserve natural resources, and enhance the quality of life in the Tucson metropolitan area. You may be familiar with one or more of these programs, but please take a moment to visit: <a href="https://www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org">www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org</a> or call 791-3109 to find out more information about these and other great programs and how to get involved:

- Adopt-a-Park & Public Areas: In the face of continued maintenance cutbacks related to budgetary pressures, your business or community organization can volunteer to help clean up litter in our public spaces and receive recognition for your efforts.
- Trees for Tucson: Obtain low-cost desert adapted shade trees to plant at your home or in community spaces to help beautify our city and improve environmental conditions.
- Recycling: Call 791-5000 to learn more about what you can recycle at home, and other businesses and community organizations and special events that accept other items for recycling and reuse including electronics, clothing and household items, furniture and much more.
- Children's Memorial Park: This special community site is a public park operated by Pima County. Tucson Clean & Beautiful coordinates the memorial wall name engravings for parents and guardians who have had a child pass away. There is a fee of \$3 per letter of a child's name to cover engraving costs.

Especially during difficult economic times, it is critical that the community take charge of its local environmental conditions, for the present-day benefits as well as the long-term investment that a clean and beautiful community represents!

## **Tucson Recycles Now Accepting Rigid Plastics in Blue Barrels**

By: Cristina Polsgrove, Environmental Services

Tucsonans will be able to put rigid plastics in their blue barrel for recycling. Tucson Recycles has worked with Waste Management to increase the types of plastics accepted for recycling. These new items are rigid plastics and include: outdoor toys like playhouses, plastic milk/soda crates, plastic laundry baskets, plastic buckets, plastic flower pots and nursery trays, plastic garbage cans, plastic dish drainers, five-gallon water bottles, plastic ice chests, plastic furniture, and much more. To learn more about rigid plastics recycling visit: <a href="https://www.tucsonrecycles.org">www.tucsonrecycles.org</a>.





## **Code Pink's Peace Ribbon Exhibit**

By: Mary DeCamp, Mountain View Resident

Last fall, the Ward 3 office hosted 17 panels from the nationally touring memorial exhibition of Code Pink's Peace Ribbon in the public meeting room. The entire Peace Ribbon stretches approximately 800 feet and has nearly 300 fabric panels that can be displayed individually or tied together to create a continuous ribbon of remembrance for the lives lost in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Each of the panels was lovingly hand-crafted by individuals all across the United States as a way of honoring the ultimate sacrifice made by soldiers and civilians caught in the tragedy of war. The Peace Ribbon is sent around the country for various Code Pink chapters to display locally.



This is the second year that the Peace Ribbon has visited Tucson to be exhibited in the All Souls Procession. All Souls Procession is a wonderful Tucson tradition that Many Mouths One Stomach has gifted to us. It was such a natural pairing to bring the Peace Ribbon to Tucson to contribute to the All Souls Procession. We recognize that all souls share the same human spark and when war extinguishes that spark prematurely and violently, we mourn."

The recent death of Todd Harris, a 37 year old ex-Tucsonan who died in Afghanistan, brings an unwelcome opportunity for someone to add a panel to the ever-growing Peace Ribbon. If anyone is interested in contributing a panel, please contact Mary DeCamp at <a href="mailto:mdecamp@q.com">mdecamp@q.com</a> or 408-4974 to receive information on how to participate.



Display of Peace Ribbons at Ward 3 Council Office

Stars of Ward 3

By: Lisa Ross, Ward 3



The Ward 3 Council Office would like to recognize folks who took some extra time out of their busy schedules to volunteer within the community.

Winterhaven resident Laura Aldag was the recipient of Ben's Bells for her work with the Lend A Hand Senior Outreach program. Laura has been a driving force behind Lend-A-Hand for years. Congratulations Laura for all your dedication towards a wonderful service.

Special Thank you to Patrick Pfeifer, Mary McCarthy, and Kevin Dahl for volunteering in the SAMOS neighborhood for planting more then 60 trees for neighbors in the SAMOS neighborhood this past spring. The SAMOS neighborhood is now a more "green" friendly neighborhood to live and visit.



Environmental
Services
Low Income
Assistance
Program



The City of Tucson Environmental Services (ES) provides a \$12 credit towards ES monthly charges to qualified customers. The credit will be effective for 1-full year from the approval date. To be eligible, you must:

- Have residential trash service from the City of Tucson (Eligibility is limited to 1-location within City limits);
- Have the City Utility Services bill in your name;
- Meet household size/income guidelines, and obtain verification of your information.

Below are the eligibility requirements to determine if you qualify for the ES Low Income Program.

Number of Persons in Household	Total Gross Annual Income
1	\$13,490
2	\$22,108
3	\$30,353
4	\$37,471
5	\$44,216
6	\$51,716
7	\$59,216
8	\$66,716

## For each additional person, add \$7,500.

Participants in this program are qualified for 12-months from the approval date. Participants will receive notification at least 30-days prior to the expiration period as a reminder to review eligibility for the ES Low Income Program.

If you feel you qualify and would like more information on this program, please call Environmental Service Customer Service at 791-3171 (TTY#: 791-2639) or visit: <a href="www.tucsonaz.gov/esd">www.tucsonaz.gov/esd</a>.







By: Tamara Prime, Ward 3

On November 23, 2010 in response to the AZ Legislature's passage of House Bill 2246, the Tucson City Council unanimously approved the replacement of Tucson Code §§ 11-22 and 11-23 with T.C. § 11-22(b)(1). The new city code prohibits the <u>use</u> of any fireworks within the city limits. A person may possess permissible fireworks, but they may not be used. Since House Bill 2246 passage, there are 63 locations within the city limits that have applied for and have been approved to sell permissible fireworks.

The Arizona House Bill 2246 (laws 2010, Chapter 286) amended the state's fireworks statute to allow for "permissible" fireworks to be sold within Arizona. Permissible fireworks are designed to be handheld or designed to remain on the ground. They are:

- 1. Ground and handheld sparkling devices
- 2. Cylindrical fountains
- 3. Cone fountains
- 4. Illuminating torches
- 5. Wheels
- 6. Ground spinners
- 7. Flitter sparklers
- 8. Toy smoke devices
- 9. Wire sparklers or dipped sticks
- 10. Multiple tube fireworks devices and pyrotechnic articles

Note: Sparklers, snakes and smoke bombs are considered novelty devices and their use is not re-

## The GATE Is Up!

By: Vicki Hart, SAMOS Neighborhood Resident

After two years of meetings, protests and negotiations, the SAMOS Neighborhood has partnered with Chase Bank in finding a solution to the night-time traffic in the alley behind Chase Bank at the corner of Silver and Campbell. Chase Bank has installed a gate that is closed at night, rerouting traffic onto Campbell or Spring or Silver. Foot and car traffic going to and from Coffee X Change's 24 hour coffee shop to the Chase parking lot, has long been an issue for the neighborhood. The gate has closed the alley to traffic at night, allowing neighbors more peaceful evenings.



Neighbors officially cutting the ribbon for their new gate!



## Watershed Management Group-Working Together Towards Sustainable Solutions

By: Tory Syracuse, Project Manager

Tucson-based non-profit Watershed Management Group (WMG), with support from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the US Environmental Protection Agency, has selected six Tucson neighborhoods to participate in its Neighborhood Leaders program. The program trains neighborhoods to participate in its Neighborhood Leaders program. The program trains neighborhood residents in the design and implementation of street-side stormwater harvesting strategies (also referred to as green infrastructure) tailored to Tucson's arid environment. Each neighborhood will also be awarded funding for the installation of resident-designed green infrastructure projects.

Neighborhoods which were selected were Barrio Hollywood, Coronado Heights, Elvira, Glenn Heights, Palo Verde, and Sunnyside. The program culminates with each group of neighborhood leaders organizing and constructing one or more projects in their own neighborhoods. These projects will be implemented through a grassroots model in which neighborhood volunteers install green infrastructure through hands-on workshops. WMG will provide logistical support, design expertise, and guidance to neighborhood leaders as they embark on the first of what could become many such projects in their neighborhoods.

Green infrastructure refers to practices that utilize natural features to deal with stormwater, such as water harvesting basins along right-of-ways or in curb bump-outs and traffic circles. Benefits of such projects include increased vegetation and habitat, traffic calming, enhanced neighborhood livability for pedestrians and bicyclists, and mitigation of urban heat island effect, flooding, and water quality issues.

Green infrastructure projects as this one not only enhance the built and natural environment, but also bring community members together around positive solutions.

## The Green Chamber of Commerce.

*By: George Pettit, Ward 3* 

CM Karin Uhlich welcomes the Southern Arizona Green Chamber of Commerce (SAGCC) as the newest chamber in the Tucson Area. The SAGCC is a non-profit trade association of businesses, organizations, students and individuals interested in sustainability in Southern Arizona. The Green Chamber will direct its efforts at promoting the common economic interests of all its members and advocate a community based on ecologically sound policies and sustainable practices.

They will also work to enhance the green business climate in Southern Arizona by researching, educating and promoting sustainable practices to the business community; lobbying to enact practical legislation to encourage green practices in our community and assist businesses, organizations and individuals in maximizing their green footprints. It is not our intention to duplicate the offerings of other sustainable organizations but rather to complement them. For more information, please visit their website: www.SAGCC.org.



## Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event on Saturdays

Many common materials found in households and businesses should <u>not</u> be disposed of in landfills and can be hazardous to the environment if disposed of improperly. Leftover quantities of these products should never be poured down the drain or stored for excessive periods of time.

The HHW Collection Program is jointly sponsored by the City of Tucson and Pima County. The main facility located at 2440 W. Sweetwater Drive serves the residents of Tucson and Pima County. Materials collected through the HHW Program are recycled or properly disposed of so they do not harm people or the environment.

Please bring your household hazardous waste materials to the proper sites for disposal.

Materials are accepted free of charge!

#### **Main Site**

2440 W. Sweetwater Dr. Friday and Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

#### Los Reales Landfill

5300 E. Los Reales Rd. Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Outreach Sites First Saturday of each month 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon (except for holidays)

Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway Blvd. Tucson Water Plant #2, 1102 W. Irvington Rd. Pusch Ridge Christian Church, 440 W. Calle Concordia

## **ABOP Sites (Antifreeze, Batteries, Oil, and Paint)**

Sahuarita Landfill, 16605 S. La Cañada Dr. Monday through Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tangerine Road Landfill, 10220 W. Tangerine Rd. Monday through Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Catalina Transfer Station, 14425 N. Oracle Rd. Thursday through Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ryan Field Transfer Station, 6455 S. Continental Rd. Thursday through Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## **Income Tax Assistance Available at the Ward 3 Office**

By: George Pettit, Ward 3

The United Way sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance(VITA) program is in its 3rd year of operation at the Ward 3 Office. They offer Income Tax assistance for working families, individuals and seniors.

The service is available in the community room at the Ward 3 Office, 1510 E. Grant Road, on Tuesdays from 2 pm to 7 pm and Saturdays (including April 16<sup>th</sup>) from 9 am to 12 noon – first come first serve.

What you will need to get your taxes done for free:

- Picture I.D. for taxpayer and spouse (if applicable)
- ORIGINAL Social Security card\* for EACH family member
- Proof of income, including W2 and 1099 forms
- Documentation of deductible expenses
- Account and routing numbers of checking and savings accounts for direct deposit of refunds
- Prior year tax return (if possible)

\*Photocopies, W2s, prior year returns, or any other document issued by any office other than the Social Security Administration is NOT acceptable.

The VITA program ensures that individuals and families receive all tax benefits for which they are eligible, most importantly the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which has been recognized as the single most powerful tool to lift children out of poverty.

The EITC is a refundable tax credit for low- and moderate-income working taxpayers. Depending on income and number of household members, the EITC can increase a family's annual income by as much as 50%. Each year, more than \$20 million in EITC funds is left on the table in Pima County alone, by eligible families who do not claim this substantial tax credit!

In addition to the EITC, you may be eligible for other tax credits if you:

- Pay for childcare,
- Have dependent children or relatives living with you.
- Pay tuition for college or university,
- Are elderly and/or disabled, and/or
- Have special circumstances that may apply to you or someone in your household
- Contribute to a retirement plan.

Do you need help with...

- Understanding IRS notices or letters?
- Settling disputes with the IRS, such as liens, levies, garnishments, and right to tax credits?
- Completing an IRS audit?
- Negotiating settlements of tax debt?
- Preparing for tax court?

The Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) program can help! Call Pio Decimo Center for an appointment to-day! 520-388-9153 ext. 127

## **Helpful City Contacts**

**City Manager** 

City Hall

255 W. Alameda

Tucson, AZ 85701

791-4204

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/citym

gr

Clerk's Office

City Hall 9th floor

255 W. Alameda

Tucson, AZ 85701

791-4101

Cityclerk@tucsonaz.gov

**Code Enforcement** 

320 N. Commerce Park Loop

Tucson, AZ 85745

791-5843

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/v

iolation

**Convention Center** 

260 S. Church

Tucson, AZ 85701

791-4101

www.tucsonaz.gov/tcc/

**Environmental Services** 

Price Service Center

4004 S. Park Avenue, Bldg. 14

Tucson, AZ

791-3175

www.esd.tucsonaz.gov

**Finance Department** 

City Hall 5th Floor

255 W. Alameda

Tucson, AZ 85701

791-4893

www.tucsonaz.gov/finance/

**Graffiti Hotline** 

792-2489

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/

graffiti/report

**Fire Department** 

300 S. Fire Central Place

Tucson, AZ

791-4512

www.tucsonaz.gov/fire

Housing and Community

Development

(Code Enforcement)

Santa Rita Building

310 N. Commerce Park

Loop

Tucson, AZ 85701

791-4171

www.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/

Independent Police Audi-

tor

Public Works Building

201 N. Stone Avenue, 3rd

Floor

Tucson, AZ 85701

791-4593

www.tucsonaz.gov/eoo/ipa.h

tml

**Library Pima Public** 

Main Library

101 N. Stone

Tucson, AZ 85701

www.library.pima.gov/contac

<u>t/</u>

Mayor's Office

City Hall

255 W, Alameda

Tucson, AZ 85701

791-4201

http://cm3.tucsonaz.gov/may

<u>or</u>

Parks and Recreation

900 S. Randolph Way

Tucson, AZ 85716

791-4873 (Main)

791-4877 (Class Informa-

tion)

http://cm3.tucsonaz.gov/park

sandrec/

**ParkWise** 

791-5071

http://cms3,tucsonaz.gov/parkwise/

Planning and Development Svcs.

201 N. Stone

Tucson, AZ 85701

791-5550

www.tucsonaz.gov/dsd/

**Police** 

270 S. Stone Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85701

791-4444 (Non-Emergency)

http://tpdinternet.tucsonaz.gov/

Sun Tran

4220 S. Park

Tucson, AZ 85714

792-9222

www.suntran.com

Sun Van

3401 E. Ajo Way

Tucson, AZ 85713

798-1000

http://www.vantran.org/

**Streets and Traffic Maintenance** 

4004 S. Park Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85714

791-3154

www.dot.tucsonaz.gov

**Tucson Water Department** 

310 W. Alameda

Tucson, AZ 85701

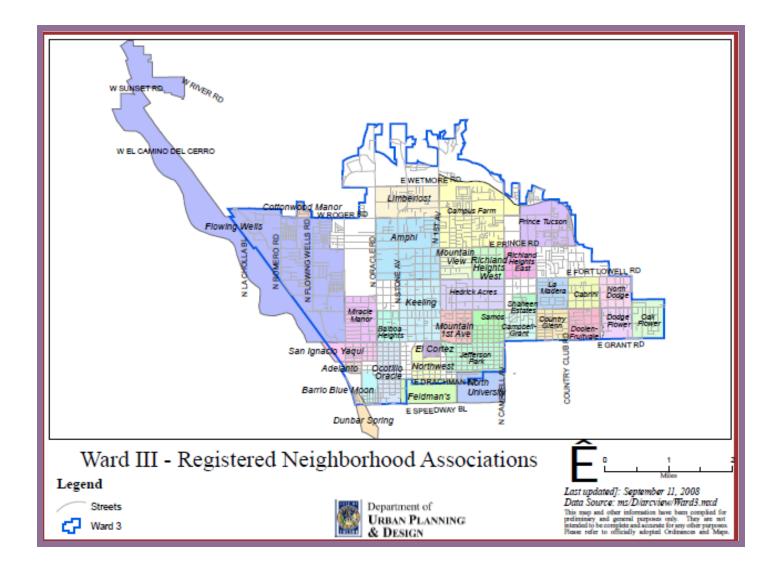
791-3242

791-4133 (24 hour Emergency

Service)

www.cms3.tucsonaz.gov/water





## Ward 3 Staff

Karin Uhlich, Council Member Tamara Prime, Chief of Staff George Pettit, Council Aide Linda Mehall, Executive Assistant (part time) Lisa Ross, Administrative Assistant

> 1510 E. Grant Road Tucson, Arizona 85719 Phone: (520) 791-4711 Fax: (520) 791-5391

E-Mail: <u>www.ward3@tucsonaz.gov</u>

Follow Karin at:

http://twitter.com/KarinWard3